



**Minutes for the Meeting of
Thursday, August 17, 2023**

Item 1: Call to Order

The Commission Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Item 2: Roll Call

Present – Commission Chair Caridad Sanchez, Vice Chair Paul Cooper, and Commissioners Jimmie Slack and Sid Voorakkara

Absent – Commissioner Tom Hebrank
(Note: Commissioner Hebrank was present for Closed Session.)

Staff – Executive Director Sharon Spivak, General Counsel Christina Cameron, Investigative Program Manager Kristina Gagné, Audit Program Manager Rosalba Gomez, Legislative Program Manager Megan Curran, Education Program Manager Ryan O'Connor, and Program Manager of Administration and Training Victoria Velasquez

Due to the fact the terms of office for the Chair and Vice Chair expired on June 30, 2023, in accordance with the San Diego Municipal Code, agenda Item 8 was heard first. This enabled the Chair to conduct the rest of the meeting.

Item 8: Election of Ethics Commission Chair and Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2024

The Ad Hoc Committee, made up of Commissioner Voorakkara and Commissioner Cooper, met to consider and recommend nominees to serve as the Commission's next Chair and Vice Chair, for Fiscal Year 2024. Commissioner Voorakkara announced that the Ad Hoc committee made the following nominations:

Chair: Caridad Sanchez
Vice Chair: Paul Cooper

No other candidates were nominated by the Commission.

Motion: Approve Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations
Moved/Seconded: Voorakkara/Slack
Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Hebrank

Item 3: Approval of Commission Minutes of June 8, 2023

Motion: Approve Minutes
Moved/Seconded: Voorakkara/Slack
Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Hebrank

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

Item 5: Commissioner Comment

Commissioner Cooper thanked the Commission for accommodating his request to change the meeting time.

Commissioner Slack thanked Chair Sanchez and Vice Chair Cooper for agreeing to continue to serve in their respective roles.

As this was the last meeting for Commissioner Voorakkara, who has served two full terms, Chair Sanchez thanked him for his extended service on the Commission.

Item 6: Executive Director Comment

The Executive Director made the following announcements:

- (1) The Mayor's Office said it is sending a memo to Councilmembers and the City Attorney to request nominations for the three open seats on the seven-member Ethics Commission (including the seat soon to be vacated by Commissioner Voorakkara). At least two of the open seats must be filled by attorneys in good standing with the State Bar of California. The Executive Director expressed her hope that appointments would be made as soon as possible: the Commission needs at least four members to be present for a quorum, at least four members to take actions, and at least five members to approve settlements. As the City Council is on Legislative Recess, it is unclear when appointments will be made.

- (2) The random drawing to select the 2022 campaign committees that will be subject to an Ethics Commission audit will be held at the Commission's next meeting, on September 14, 2023.
- (3) The Ethics Commission concluded its 2023 Fiscal Year on June 30, 2023, coming in under budget, as it has done for many years.
- (4) The Executive Director has been making presentations to numerous organizations about the Ethics Commission, campaign finance and ethics laws, and the operations of the office. This is part of her continued outreach to heighten awareness of the office and the roles it plays. She recently gave a presentation to the City of San Diego's interns. On August 18, 2023, the Executive Director and Education Program Manager Ryan O'Connor are speaking to the California Political Treasurers Association. In September 2023, the Executive Director will be part of a panel with representatives of two other Ethics Commissions at the California Political Attorneys Association conference.

The Executive Director also thanked Commissioner Voorakkara for his long service on the Commission, and for the help he has provided to her throughout her time in this role.

Item 7: General Counsel Comment

General Counsel Christina Cameron thanked the Commissioners for their flexibility in accommodating her need to attend the meeting remotely. She explained that the Brown Act provisions regarding circumstances in which a Commission member may attend remotely do not apply to staff.

The General Counsel also thanked Commissioner Voorakkara for his service on the Commission.

Item 9: Consideration and Adoption of Ethics Commission's Calendar for the 2024 Fiscal Year

Motion:	Adopt Meeting Calendar
Moved/Seconded:	Voorakkara/Cooper
Vote:	Carried Unanimously
Absent:	Hebrank

Item 10: Presentation of Final Audit Report Regarding the Barbara Bry for San Diego Mayor 2020 Committee

Motion:	Accept Audit Report
Moved/Seconded:	Cooper/Voorakkara
Vote:	Carried Unanimously

Absent: Hebrank

Item 11: Announcement of Closed Session Items / Adjourn to Closed Session.

Commission Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting to closed session at 2:15 p.m. She stated the Commission would reconvene into open session following the conclusion of closed session to report any action taken during the closed session portion of the meeting.

Reconvene to Open Session

Commission Chair Sanchez called the meeting back into open session at approximately 3:23 p.m.

Reporting Results of Closed Session Meeting of August 17, 2023

Ms. Cameron reported the results of the closed session meeting of August 17, 2023. Ms. Spivak reported the results of Item 3 only.:

Attendance:

Present: Commission Chair Caridad Sanchez, Vice Chair Paul Cooper, and Commissioners Tom Hebrank (arrived at 2:16 p.m.), Jimmie Slack, and Sid Voorakkara

Staff: Executive Director Sharon Spivak, Investigative Program Manager Kristina Gagné, Legislative Program Manager Megan Curran, and Program Manager of Administration and Training Victoria Velasquez

(General Counsel Christina Cameron recused from Item 3 only.)

Item-1: Conference with Legal Counsel

Case No. 2023-12 – Contributions: Organization Lobbyist

Motion: Dismiss
Moved/Seconded: Voorakkara/Slack
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 2: Conference with Legal Counsel

Case No. 2023-17 – Misuse of City Position or Resources

Motion: Dismiss
Moved/Seconded: Cooper/Hebrank

Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 3: Conference with Legal Counsel

Case No. 2023-11 – Contributions: Organization Lobbyist

Motion: Approve Stipulation
Moved/Seconded: Slack/Cooper
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 4: Conference with Legal Counsel

Case No. 2023-14 – Contributions: Organization Lobbyist

Motion: Approve Stipulation
Moved/Seconded: Voorakkara/Hebrank
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 5: Conference with Legal Counsel

Case No. 2023-13 – Contributions: Organization Lobbyist

Motion: Approve Stipulation
Moved/Seconded: Hebrank/Voorakkara
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 6: Conference with Legal Counsel

Case No. 2023-19 – Misuse of City Position or Resources

Motion: Authorize Investigation
Moved/Seconded: Hebrank/Cooper
Vote: 4-0
Recused: Slack

Item 7: Conference with Legal Counsel

Case No. 2022-25 – Disclosure of Economic Interests

Motion: Authorize Expanded Investigation
Moved/Seconded: Slack/Hebrank
Vote: Carried Unanimously

Item 8: Appointment of Labor Negotiator

Appointment of Commission Chair Sanchez and Vice Chair Cooper to serve as Labor Negotiators for future discussions with unrepresented employee.

Government Code section 54957.6
Unrepresented Employee: Executive Director

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 3:25 p.m.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Caridad Sanchez, Chair
Ethics Commission

Victoria Velasquez, Program Manager
Ethics Commission

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST.

###